

From: Brian Grave
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/15/02 12:42am
Subject: MICROSOFT SETTLEMENT

Judge;

the proposed deal with MS is a potential disaster for our industry for a bunch of reasons. but the most obvious one is the issue of "bolting."

The PFJ does not address the issue that fueled consumer criticism and which gave rise to this antitrust case in 1998: Microsoft's decision to bind or bolt Internet Explorer to the Windows operating system in order to crush its browser competitor Netscape.

This settlement gives Microsoft sole discretion to unilaterally determine that other products or services which don't have anything to do with operating a computer are nevertheless part of a Windows Operating System product. This creates a new exemption from parts of antitrust law for Microsoft and would leave Microsoft free in future versions to bolt financial services, cable television, or the Internet itself into Windows.

This is clearly a problem - especially for companies like mine that compete with Microsoft (as well as partner).

I hope you'll help us level the playing field here...it is desperately needed.

Brian Graves
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